185 433 Compared with 1940, the capacity of Byelorussian electric power stations in 1950 is to increase by 220 per cent.; peat production is to rise 127 per cent. above the 1940 output; the output of bricks and lime is to increase fourfold; and the production of tile is slated to be about nine times over 1940.

Among the twelve oblasts in the Republic, Minsk oblast is scheduled for the greatest industrial expansion. In the construction programme are new factories for the output of cloth, penicillin, Deft-ware, porcelain, peat briquettes, boilers, radiators, instruments, bicycles, motor trucks, and tractors. The 1950 output for the last three factories is to be 100,000 bicycles, 1,000 7-ton trucks and 5,000 tractors. In the city and environs of Minsk alone capital investments are scheduled at the rate of nearly one million roubles a day during the course of the five years.

Another area in which large developments are projected is Gomel oblast, which in 1950 is to produce 787,000 tons of peat, 90 million bricks and tiles, and five million square metres of window glass. (In 1928 the total Byelorussian output of window glass was estimated at 1,170,000 square metres.)

Forestry

137 According to the census of January 1, 1935, the forest area of the B.S.S.R. was 3,817,000 hectares, 22.9 per cent. of the area of the Republic, and 0.6 per cent. of the total forest area of the Soviet Union. Another 2,538,000 hectares were added to the B.S.S.R.'s forest area in 1939, when West Byelorussia was rejoined to the Soviet Union.

Timber

313 The production of commercial timber, largely pine, fir and oak, has been centred in the areas of Bobruisk, Mozyr, Borisov, and Polotsk. Timber is considered one of the most valuable of Byelorussia's natural resources, and has figured largely in her relatively insignificant export trade. In 1926-27, for example, an income of 20 million roubles was realized from export of timber, at a time when the Republic's budget totalled 80 million roubles, and the gross output of industry was valued at 133 million roubles. In 1924-25, the only year for which details on the export of timber are available, the timber shipped from the B.S.S.R. amounted to 587,000 cubic metres of firewood and 749,000 cubic metres of other timber. About 60 per cent. of this was sent to the Ukraine (within the U.S.S.R.) and the remainder, plywood, oak, pine, and other products, was shipped abroad via the Baltic States.

The advanced development of the timber industry in the B.S.S.R. is revealed by the number of sawing frames which the Republic had in pre-war years. As at April 1, 1939, (before the incorporation of Western Byelorussia) the B.S.S.R. possessed 256 of the Soviet Union's 6,500 frames.

313 This high proportion should be contrasted with the small forest area of this Republic in relation to that of the whole U.S.S.R.

185 313 433 The goal set for timber deliveries by the B.S.S.R. in 1950 is 11,100,000 cubic metres; and cuttings during the period 1946-50 are planned at 58,400,000 cubic metres. The aggregate timber deliveries attained during four and one-quarter years of the first Five Year Plan, 1928-32, amounted to 32,600,000 cubic metres, or 7,670,000 annually. In 1928 it had been estimated that the timber resources of the B.S.S.R. were adequate to permit cuttings of 12 million cubic metres a year by 1932. This scale of cuttings was never reached, but the figure is mentioned here because it approximates the present plan of annual deliveries set for 1950, at a time when the area of Byelorussia is about double what it was in 1928.

The reason for this is that a large amount of easily accessible timber was burned out by the Germans during the war. The Governor of Vitebsk oblast, quoting from official figures, told members of the UNRRA Mission in June 1946 that 22 per cent. of the oblast was covered by good timber before the war but at present only 16 per cent. It was estimated by the Governor of Polotsk oblast that 46 percent. of the forests of the oblast were cut, burned or taken away during the war. Post-war cutting operations will therefore be restricted in many areas, and a reforestation programme will be carried out on an area of 189,000 hectares. Meanwhile, felling will be centred in the dense swamp areas previously untouched and impossible to exploit without extensive development of motor and narrow-gauge haulways provided for in the Five Year Plan.

Of the 1950 goal for timber production, 5 million cubic metres is set for annual production under the direction of the Timber Ministry of the B.S.S.R. An undisclosed amount will be produced under the auspices of local and co-operative industry. Although no full details are at present available, nevertheless, a few comparisons with pre-war production are possible. For example, in 1928 the production of plywood in Byelorussia amounted to 59,000 cubic metres, and in 1940 to 254,000 cubic metres (36.2 per cent. of the plywood output of the Soviet Union). In 1950 the plywood output of republican, local, and co-operative industry is scheduled to be 118,500 cubic metres. No pre-war figures are available for sawn lumber output, except for 1928, when 636,060 cubic metres were produced. The planned output of sawn lumber for 1950 is 1,800,000 cubic metres, nearly three times the 1928 amount.

[439] As for the export of timber, no figures are available, but it is known that Byelorussian timber has been and still is an important source of mine props for the Donets coal mines in the Ukrainian S.S.R. 313 However, in view of the tremendous shelter rehabilitation programme in 185 devastated Byelorussia, it does not seem likely that there will be much surplus timber available. Of 400,000 collective farm houses scheduled for restoration, only 60,000 are to be built of brick. An equal, if not larger, number of public buildings were destroyed on collective farms;

313 and only 22,700 are to be rebuilt of brick. The remainder, totalling
185 over a million buildings of all kinds in the rural areas alone will be rebuilt with timber. Urban shelter restoration will also require large amounts of lumber. (In 1946 the "Komintern" woodworking combinat in Bobruisk had milled 36,892 cubic metres of lumber, by October 27, of which 27,000 cubic metres was earmarked for restoration work in Minsk.)

471 Another indication of the current importance attached to the timber
313 industry is the fact that the largest investments in the 1946 state budget for the R.S.F.S.R. were the 120,514,000 roubles allocated to the timber industry. This represents 28 per cent. of the total capital investments made in the Byelorussian budget for 1946.

Paper and Match Production

289 In 1937 paper production in the R.S.F.S.R. reached 57,100 tons, or 6.87 per cent. of the total paper production of the Soviet Union, which was 831,600 tons. R.S.F.S.R. production of paper in 1932 was 28,700 tons, or 6.09 per cent. of the total.

372 Pre-war match production in the R.S.F.S.R. was 28.9 per cent. of
433 total Soviet Union output. Output in the R.S.F.S.R. in 1950 is to be 1,550 million boxes, and depends on the restoration of the pre-war factories. One of the largest match and plywood factories in the U.S.S.R. before the war, was the plant at Borisov, which the Germans systematically looted and destroyed. Before the war this factory had eight automatic machines for the production of wood matches, which were then widely exported, some being shipped to the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. Plywood, box shook, and other wood products were also produced. During the war four of the machines were removed to Germany, and the remainder were demolished when the Germans retreated. In June 1946, when the UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia observed this factory, it had one unit assembled from salvaged spare parts; and this unit was producing at the rate of 300,000 pocket-boxes of matches daily. Many processes were being operated by hand.

The plant originally consisted of several buildings, most of which are still either in complete ruins or have only the walls standing, without windows or roofs. Concrete floor foundations remain, with a few imbedded iron bars to which pre-war machinery was bolted. Present operations are carried out in the single building which has been restored, and is covered with a new roof. At present, one-third of the match factory space, and one-fifth of the total floor space is in operation. Present plans call for an output of 600 million boxes a year by 1950, or 1,397,000 boxes a day. Before anything like this output can be achieved, several more buildings must be restored, and additional machinery must be procured. Moreover, the demolished
372 electric power plant adjacent to the factory must also be restored to pre-war capacity. The Mission reported, however, that as at most other factories, building restoration was almost entirely a hand process;